

MAY 03 2006

Appl. No. 10/082,674
Amdt. dated May 3, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 24, 2006

PATENT**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1-3. (Canceled)

1 4. (Currently Amended): An electronic mall system according to Claim
2 **[[10]] 13**, further comprising means for executing an application in bench mark mode, and bench
3 mark means for preventing the utilization charge from being levied for an application executed
4 for not longer than a predetermined time by the user desirous of checking the performance of the
5 application.

1 5-12. (Canceled)

1 13. (New) An electronic mall system, comprising:
2 an application service provider registration database operable to store information
3 for a plurality of application service providers, utilization charge rates for a plurality of
4 applications provided by the plurality of application service providers, and utilization categories
5 to which the plurality of applications belong;
6 a reception interface operable to receive an application search request from a user
7 terminal via a network, the application search request specifying one of the utilization categories;
8 and
9 a processing unit operable to:
10 search the application service provider registration database based on the
11 utilization category specified in the received application search request;
12 send information to the user terminal to display a selection screen for
13 selecting at least one of the applications located during the search step;

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14 execute a first application and store a first execution start time into a first
15 utilization time management file associated with the first application when receiving a first
16 application execution request from the user terminal;
17 execute a second application and store a second execution start time into a
18 second utilization time management file associated with the second application when receiving a
19 second application execution request from the user terminal;
20 store a first execution end time for the first application and a second
21 execution end time for the second application into the first and second utilization time
22 management files, respectively, when detecting a disconnection with the user terminal;
23 calculate a first execution time for the first application from the first
24 execution start time and the first execution end time stored in the first utilization time
25 management file and a second execution time for the second application from the second
26 execution start time and the second execution end time stored in the second utilization time
27 management file;
28 calculate a utilization charge for each application service provider and a
29 total utilization charge for a user of the user terminal using the first and second execution times
30 and the utilization charge rates in the application service provider registration database; and
31 perform a settlement process for each application service provider and the
32 user.